



STATE OF GEORGIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ATLANTA 30334-0900

Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

June 8, 2010

The Honorable Casey Cagle
Lieutenant Governor
240 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

The Honorable David Ralston
Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives
332 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Gentlemen:

Please be advised that I have line item vetoed the appropriations below and identified language to disregard for the following sections in House Bill 948:

Vetoed:

- Section 50, pertaining to State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 153, line 4675;
- Section 50, pertaining to State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 154, line 4691;
- Section 50, pertaining to State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 156, line 4704;
- Section 50, pertaining to State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 157, line 4711; and
- Section 50, pertaining to State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 157, line 4715

Non-Binding Information Language to Disregard:

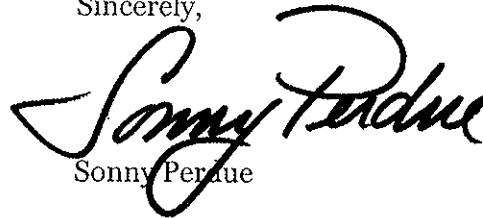
- Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 23, line 642;
- Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 23, line 668;
- Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 31, line 906;
- Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 34, line 1032;
- Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 37, line 1110;
- Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 41, line 1239;
- Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 42, line 1264;
- Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 44, line 1327;
- Section 23, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 68, line 2068;
- Section 23, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 68, line 2069;
- Section 23, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 68, line 2070;

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Section 23, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 68, line 2071;
Section 27, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 84, line 2597;
Section 31, pertaining to the Department of Labor, page 100, line 3093; and
Section 36, pertaining to the State Properties Commission, page 109, line 3360

The Veto Messages and Language are attached for each item referenced above.

Sincerely,



Sonny Perdue

SP:np

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Thurbert E. Baker, Attorney General
The Honorable Brian Kemp, Secretary of State
The Honorable Jack Hill, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Ben Harbin, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
Mr. Robert F. Ewing, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Robert E. Rivers, Jr., Clerk of the Georgia House of Representatives
Mr. Sewell R. Brumby, Legislative Counsel

Line-Item Vetoes by the Governor

Section 50, pertaining to State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 153, line 4675:

This language authorizes the appropriation of \$174,400 in debt service to finance projects and facilities for the Department of Education, specifically to fund 20 percent of the cost of reconstruction at the Clarkdale Elementary School in Cobb County through the issuance of \$2,000,000 in 20-year bonds. This project was not vetted through the current Department of Education capital outlay process and was not requested by the agency. Further, in FY 2010, the state appropriated \$22,170,155 to match \$217,755,090 in federal funds for flood disaster relief to support area reconstruction efforts. Therefore, I veto this language (page 153, line 4675) in the provisions relative to Section 50 State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund and the state general funds of \$174,400.

Section 50, pertaining to State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 154, line 4691:

This language authorizes the appropriation of \$558,080 in debt service to finance infrastructure expansion at Kennesaw State University in Cobb County through the issuance of \$6,400,000 in 20-year bonds. This project is largely focused on alleviating traffic congestion both in the Chastain Road/I-75 interchange and at Kennesaw State University. This project is more appropriately evaluated, programmed, and funded through the Georgia Department of Transportation. Therefore, I veto this language (page 154, line 4691) in the provisions relative to Section 50 State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund and the state general funds of \$558,080.

Section 50, pertaining to State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 156, line 4704:

This language authorizes the appropriation of \$12,208 in debt service to finance projects and facilities for the University System of Georgia, Board of Regents, specifically to acquire land to complete the Greene County Library in Greensboro through the issuance of \$140,000 in 20-year bonds. This project was not identified as a priority and was not requested by the agency. In addition, the purchasing of land to build a library parking lot is a local responsibility. It has been the position of this administration to follow the state approved agency capital outlay process to determine the capital needs for the State. Therefore, I veto this language (page 156, line 4704) in the provisions relative to Section 50 State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund and the state general funds of \$12,208.

Section 50, pertaining to State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 157, line 4711:

This language authorizes the appropriation of \$172,124 in debt service to finance the design for facilities expansion on the Winder-Barrow Campus of Lanier Technical College in Barrow County through the issuance of \$740,000 in 5-year bonds. This project was not identified as a priority and was not requested by the agency. In addition, this project ranks second on the priority capital needs list at the college. It has been the

position of this administration to follow the state approved agency capital outlay process to determine the capital needs for the State. Therefore, I veto this language (page 157, line 4711) in the provisions relative to Section 50 State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund and the state general funds of \$172,124.

Section 50, pertaining to State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 157, line 4715:

This language authorizes the appropriation of \$235,440 in debt service to finance projects and facilities to expand the Health Classroom Building on Currahee Campus at North Georgia Technical College in Stephens County through the issuance of \$2,700,000 in 20-year bonds. This project was not identified as a priority and was not requested by the agency. It has been the position of this administration to follow the state approved agency capital outlay process to determine the capital needs for the State. Therefore, I veto this language (page 157, line 4715) in the provisions relative to Section 50 State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund and the state general funds of \$235,440.

Certain language contained in this appropriations bill is included for informational purposes and thus does not constitute an appropriation. Because the language is not an appropriation, it is non-binding, and the Governor may authorize the agencies to utilize those funds in accordance with the overall purpose of the appropriation and within the general law authority of the agency. Passages of non-binding information language to disregard are included below.

Intent Language Considered Non-binding

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 23, line 642:

The General Assembly seeks to instruct the department to restore funding for the Emergency Receiving Facility at Central State Hospital's Powell Building. The department is authorized to provide services in the community for Developmental Disability Consumers in accordance with the purpose of the program and the general law powers of the Department.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 23, line 668:

The General Assembly seeks to instruct the department to restore funding for the Emergency Receiving Facility at Central State Hospital's Powell Building. The department is authorized to provide services in the community for Mental Health Consumers in accordance with the purpose of the program and the general law powers of the Department.

Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 31, line 906:

The General Assembly seeks to earmark \$75,000 for the House of Mercy in Columbus in the Special Housing Initiatives program. The department is authorized to operate the program in accordance with the purpose of the program and its general law powers of the Department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 34, line 1032:

The General Assembly seeks to instruct the department to provide a rate increase for inpatient and outpatient hospital reimbursement by 12 percent and hold critical access hospitals harmless in the adjustments in the Aged, Blind and Disabled Medicaid program. The department is authorized to determine reimbursement rates based on funds appropriated and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 37, line 1110:

The General Assembly seeks to earmark \$600,000 for operating expenses of the Erlanger Life Force Air Ambulance program in the Health Care Access and Improvement program. The department is authorized to provide air ambulance services in Northwest Georgia in accordance with the purpose of the program and its general law powers of the Department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 41, line 1239:

The General Assembly seeks to instruct the department to provide a rate increase for inpatient and outpatient hospital reimbursement by 12 percent and hold critical access hospitals harmless in the adjustments in the Low Income Medicaid program. The department is authorized to determine reimbursement rates based on funds appropriated and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 42, line 1264:

The General Assembly seeks to instruct the department to provide a rate increase for inpatient and outpatient hospital reimbursement by 12 percent and hold critical access hospitals harmless in the adjustments in the PeachCare Program. The department is authorized to determine reimbursement rates based on the latest provider fee models, revenue estimate, holding exempt hospitals harmless, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 44, line 1327:

The General Assembly seeks to earmark \$200,000 for a new residency program in the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce: Graduate Medical Education program. The

Department is authorized to operate the program in accordance with the purpose of the program and its general law powers of the Department.

Section 23, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 68, line 2068:

The General Assembly seeks to instruct the department to eliminate funds for SAT Prep. Use GACollege411 for ACT and SAT practice tests in the Testing program. The department is authorized to operate the program in accordance with the purpose of the program and its general law powers of the Department.

Section 23, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 68, line 2069:

The General Assembly seeks to instruct the department to reduce funds for PSAT (\$815,000) and AP exams (\$4,200,000) in the Testing program. The department is authorized to operate the program in accordance with the purpose of the program and its general law powers of the Department.

Section 23, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 68, line 2070:

The General Assembly seeks to instruct the department to eliminate funds for the CRCT for grades 1 and 2 in the Testing program. CRCTs in grades 1 and 2 ensure that students in those grades are meeting state standards and give parents confidence that their children are making adequate progress. CRCTs in grades 1 and 2 also help prepare students for the CRCT in grade 3, the passage of which is required to move on to 4th grade. It is unwise to eliminate the CRCT in grades 1 and 2. The department is authorized to operate the program in accordance with the purpose of the program and the general law powers of the department.

Section 23, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 68, line 2071:

The General Assembly seeks to instruct the department to eliminate funds for the writing assessment for grades 3 and 5 in the Testing program. Writing is one of the most fundamental skills a student must master in order to be prepared for later grades and ultimately to succeed in life. Failing to administer writing assessments in grades 3 and 5 will have a detrimental effect on students and could possibly lead to an inadequate amount of instruction in this fundamental skill. The department is authorized to operate the program in accordance with the purpose of the program and the general law powers of the department.

Section 27, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 84, line 2597:

The General Assembly seeks to instruct the department to reduce funds for regional managers and regional field program specialists in the Federal Eligibility Benefit Services program. The department is authorized to operate the program in accordance with the purpose of the program and its general law powers of the Department.

Section 31, pertaining to the Department of Labor, page 100, line 3093:

The General Assembly seeks to earmark \$24,287 for the Georgia Talking Book Center in Augusta through the Vocational Rehabilitation program. The department is authorized to operate the program in accordance with the purpose of the program and its general law powers of the Department.

Section 36, pertaining to the State Properties Commission, page 109, line 3360:

The General Assembly seeks to instruct the State Properties Commission as to what funds should be remitted to the State Treasury. Payments to the Treasury by the State Properties Commission should align with the Governor's Revenue Estimate. This language dictates a matter controlled by general law and is therefore null and void.